

Farewell to Modernisation?

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Schooling and Modernity by B L Jindal; Inter-India Publications, New Delhi; 1984, pp xii + 151; Rs 140.

THE 'modernisation' paradigm is still alive if not kicking. B L Jindal has used it to prove that schooling contributes to students' modernity, that the English-medium urban private school produces more modern students than does the government village school. By modern, he means the usual admixture of secular, scientific, achievement and independence-oriented, civic attitudes. After reading Jindal's elaborate analysis of students' scores on the modernity scale that he prepared to compare the students of two urban and one rural school in Hissar, Haryana, one is supposed to conclude that being modern in the prevailing social structure has to do with being born in a class whose children have access to locally prestigious, expensive, English-medium schooling. Put differently, modernity is a function of belonging to the local elite, and further that it has nothing to do with interest in changing the power distribution prevailing in society. But these are not the words which believers in the modernisation paradigm use. Nor does Jindal. He merely concludes that to spread modernity we should have more schools that are known to spread modernity—and these are 'quality' schools, invariably English-medium, I quote him, "the English medium has been found as a powerful predictor of student modernity".

It is a sad commentary on the modernisation paradigm that it has come full circle from being the mouthpiece of social change to becoming the legitimiser of elite style and power within less than thirty years. As Jindal's review of literature shows, the theoretical basis of modernisation was laid down in the sixties in the United States, and much of the empirical work, that is research aimed at showing the impact of education on modernisation, was done during the seventies, and in the 'developing' Third World. Thus, modernisation was the child of the 'development decade', born at a time when economic relationships brought about by colonisation and modern imperialism had begun to be researched and needed something to be stopped from becoming a part of valid knowledge of the newly independent nations. Modernisation served this role. It persuasively insisted that being modern had to do with certain attitudes and values, rather than one's place in the social hierarchy, that education could bring about the desired change of attitudes, and finally, that the revolution of attitudes was what social change in the ex-colonies was all about. Thus, the concept of modernisation discouraged the young educated citizenry of the ex-colonies from perceiving social change

as a process of redistribution of power and resources among different socio-economic strata. Modernity became, under the influence of the flying gurus of the sixties such as McLelland, Lerner and Weiner, synonymous with secular, scientific achievement-oriented behaviour, a bag of virtues too pure to be defiled by political awareness of dirty things like power and oppression.

It is unfortunate that as a reviewer I should criticise Jindal's paradigm rather than review his work within it. One does this because the modernisation paradigm is far too politically allegorical to be taken at its face value. But once its message is clarified, which I had to do since Jindal didn't, one can 'accept' it as the proper context for commenting on a piece of research. Even if I do this, I fail to get excited with the data and interpretation presented in this study. There are far too many objectives and hypotheses—something that has become the trademark of Indian educational studies. What is worse, the data have been overexerted. After all, the kind of data Jindal is dealing with are hypothetical value-choices, not facts; not even opinions. For example, students are asked to respond to this statement: "man should live for today and his tomorrow takes care of itself. Whether one agrees, disagrees, or chooses to stay undecided about this proposition has to do with the way one relates to the meaning it conveys. Attitude questionnaires, unless very sensitively designed, take off from the shaky springboard of an assumed common interpretation on the part of the respondents. Once the researcher has made such a take off, he may find it impossible to remember the limited value of the data, especially in the midst of exciting statistical possibilities.

These possibilities Jindal fully exploits and one is not surprised that the over-analysed data bring him across odd fish that he must ignore. For example, his attempt to arrange urban students' score on the different dimensions of modernity according to their class-level at school shows that from Class 8 to 9 there is a decline in the scores on four out of the six dimensions of modernity. Table 4.12 shows that students of Class 9 are less—rather than more—secular, scientific universalistic and achievement-oriented than students of Class 8. Jindal doesn't explain why more education causes reduction in modernity; he merely says that "Table 4.12 shows that the level of urban schooling was also positively associated with all the dimensions of modernity, except the secular orientation" (p 47). This reporting is clearly not accurate. One wishes the researcher had

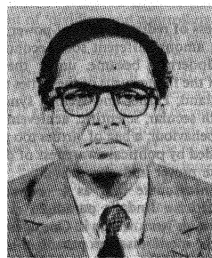
more respect for the data—whatever the kind and quality of the data he chooses to work with.

Jindal insists that his study has implications for policy. One implication he draws is that "there should be a ban on the haphazard growth of schools, and the high-ranking schools should get preference over the low-ranking schools". Obviously Jindal believes that no education is better than the meagre, poor-quality education that the less resourceful private schools or government schools can provide. Further, he believes that English-medium education available in urban areas is fine. Now if these are to be taken as conclusions arrived at on the basis of his study rather than his personal views, then we must once again see these conclusions in the context of modernisation as a paradigm of research in education. Here is a way of looking at the world that taught us all in our undergraduate days that literacy and education for everybody are essential in a democracy. Today, the same perspective allows one to conclude that since so much of educational effort (i.e., village schools, Hindi-medium urban schools) does not lead to adequate modernisation of students' personality, we should now restrict education to the few who are capable of becoming modernised. The question that Jindal's study raises in one's mind is whether we should continue to see education in the context of modernisation, even now when the early promises of the paradigm have become irrelevant and the crises that modernisation-thinkers wanted to postpone have nearly engulfed us. Or, we should bury it with respect for what it was worth.

Hero Honda Motors

HERO HONDA MOTORS released its first CD 100 motorcycle to its lucky recipient together with more than 100 others at a function in Bombay recently. The company takes pride that it has kept its promise to bring the latest technology to India within a record period of time. According to Brijmohan Lall, Chairman, CD 100 is technologically the most advanced motorcycle now available in the country. It is the only 4-stroke 100 CC motorcycle and is highly fuel-efficient capable of giving 80 kms per litre (40 kms per hour with 130 kgs payload). The vehicle has been specially designed and developed to suit Indian roads and operating conditions. It is designed to give maximum rider comfort and safety and conforms to the highest international emission standards. The motorcycle is being produced at the modern factory complex set up by the company at Dharuhera in Haryana, a centrally notified backward area. While the company has a licensed capacity of 200,000 motorcycles per annum, the management has planned to produce 40,000 units in the first year and gradually increase the production to 120,000 units by the third year.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.



SHRI R.D. SHAH

Gentlemen,

We pay our respectful homage to the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi whose tragic assassination was a great blow to the nation. Under the young and energetic leadership of the new Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the country can look forward to achieving new peaks of economic progress.

The National economy recorded an impressive performance with a rise of 7% in industrial production during the first eight months of the year 1984-85 mainly due to growth in infra-structural industries which ensure basic inputs and services to the economy. Recent policy announcements by the Government of India relating to Import-Export policy, development of electronics industry, deregulation of licences for certain industries, raising of limit for MRTP companies and the reliefs in taxation would all go to accelerate the investment in industry. The new textile policy of Government of India is also expected to revive the textile industry, especially in the mills sector. This will have vital impact on the economy of Gujarat State which has a wide textile base.

The State of Gujarat, in its Silver Jubilee Year, fully utilised the Sixth Plan outlay of Rs. 3760 crores. The State was well on its way of achieving the growth rate of 5% during the Sixth Plan Period. The number of small scale units rose to 6,553 in the year 1984 as compared with 5,313 in 1983. Units registered in the large and medium scale sectors under DGTD were 148 in 1984 as against 96 in 1983.

(Excerpts from the Speech of Chairman, delivered at the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Corporation held on 28-8-85 at Ahmedabad)

The Silver Jubilee Year of the Corporation turned out to be an outstanding and eventful one in the annals of the Corporation. By the end of 25 years, the total sanctioned assistance of the Corporation has amounted to Rs. 512.31 crores. Sanctions during the Sixth Plan Period amounted to Rs. 292.51 crores, indicating a rapid growth of the Corporation's business during the past five years. Likewise, disbursements during the Sixth Plan Period were to the tune of Rs. 182.23 crores.

The Corporation has laid emphasis on achieving balanced regional development by extending greater financial assistance to industries coming up in backward and rural areas of the State. Total assistance in backward areas is to the tune of Rs. 245 crores to 9,893 units during 25 years, which is 47.8% of the total assistance.

The sanctions of the Corporation amounting to Rs. 65.42 crores in the year 1984-85 show a rise of 12.6% over the previous year. Disbursement (Rs. 41.25 crores) also registered a rise of 7.6% over the previous year. The recovery amounted to Rs. 36.72 crores.

The Spot Guidance Programme initiated in 1983 for guiding, helping and encouraging entrepreneurs particularly in the small scale sector has received very encouraging response. The Corporation covered 10 centres so far and has attracted about 5,000 entrepreneurs wanting to make an estimated investment of about Rs. 125 crores. A Counselling-cum-Guidance Camp was specially organised at Bombay in August 1984.

Looking to the enthusiastic response to the programme at district levels, the Corporation proposes to organise such programmes at

selected taluka places having good potential for development of small scale industries.

The Corporation organised a workshop-cum-guidance programme on modernisation of industries. IDBI has also provided incentives for modernisation and come out with a scheme for providing financial assist-

ance on concessional terms which is adopted by the Corporation for implementation. It is hoped that entrepreneurs will take full advantage of this scheme for modernisation.

I am happy to report that a bill for amendment of the SFCs Act was introduced in the recently concluded session of Parliament proposing to enhance the limit of assistance from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 60 lakhs and we expect to see a revised SFCs Act emerging in the next session of Parliament.

IDBI which contributes to a large extent to our resources appointed a Committee to examine the resource mix in the SFCs. The Committee has recommended certain vital changes whereby 55% of the disbursement will be met by refinance from IDBI; 25% from issue of bonds; and 20%

through plough back and increased share capital.

Computerisation.

It is proposed to make the maximum use of the computer for providing all types of management information service. It is heartening to note that IDBI has also agreed to provide necessary support and financial assistance upto Rs. 5 lakhs to all SFCs and has also decided to appoint a Committee to evolve a standard package for computer hardware and software. I hope, as a result of these developments, the Corporation will have its own In-House Computer facility by the end of 1985-86.

Seventh Five Year Plan

In the light of far reaching changes made in the National economic and fiscal policies and emphasis placed on computerisation and utilisation of advanced technology, the country expects to make rapid industrial development. Gujarat will also go along with the mainstream of industrial progress and the Corporation has plans for acceleration of the process of development of industries in a significant manner in the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90).

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Year of the Corporation, when we have crossed sanction of loans of Rs. 500 crores, I acknowledge with a sense of gratitude the valuable contribution made by my predecessors, the former Directors and the Managing Directors whose able guidance and sustained efforts have helped the Corporation to achieve this position.

GUJARAT STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

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Ahmedabad - 380 009



SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CORPORATION DURING 1984-85

- Highest ever loan of Rs. 65.42 crores sanctioned.
- Crossed landmark of sanctions of Rs. 500 crores.
- Small Scale Sector was sanctioned loans of Rs. 51.7 crores covering 1680 units.
- Maintenance of trust towards backward area development. Loans of Rs. 33.89 crores were sanctioned to 683 units.
- Under Door Step Programme 157 enterprises in 13 new centres were assisted with loan of Rs. 1.68 crores.
- Under New Entrepreneurs Scheme 60 entrepreneurs were granted loans of Rs. 1.73 crores.
- Special Capital assistance amounting to Rs. 11.89 lakhs was granted to 14 units.
- 223 SC/ST entrepreneurs were given assistance of Rs. 1.20 crores under Soft Loan Scheme.
- 17 non-resident Indians were granted loans of Rs. 2.73 crores showing a rise of 74% in assistance.

PROGRESS DURING 25 YEARS

(Rs. in crores)

